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Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations

WEEKLY RECAP

- Gov't Funding** Congress has until midnight, Dec. 7th to pass the remaining 7 spending bills in order to avoid a partial government shut down. The bills that need approval would fund the EPA, the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Homeland Security, Interior, State, Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, as well as several other agencies.
- Floor Action** The House passed the Coast Guard authorization, which included the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) that authorizes EPA to set standards for ballast water discharges, sending it the President's desk for signature.
- Nominations** OCSPP nominee Alex Dunn appeared before the Senate EPW Committee on Thursday 11/29. Chairman Barrasso's remarks, & more info on the hearing can be found [HERE](#).
- Leadership** House Democrats held their leadership elections. Democrats voted to nominate Nancy Pelosi to serve as speaker by a vote of 203-32, though she will need to reach 218 votes on the House floor to win the gavel.
- Rep. Steny Hoyer, the current Minority Whip will become the Democrats Majority Leader and #2. Rep. James Clyburn will become the Democrats #3 as Majority Whip. Rep. David Cicilline

of Rhode Island will join the leadership team as the chair of the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee.

Meetings Administrator Wheeler met with Senator-elect Kevin Cramer on Friday, 11/30.

Administrator Wheeler met with Senators Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst on Wednesday, 11/28.

OAR, OPA, and Region 5 officials hosted a community engagement session in Willowbrook, Illinois regarding EtO. Staff from the offices of Congressmen Lipinski, and Foster attended.

Administrator Wheeler signed an MOU with STRONGER, the State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations, on Thursday, 11/29.

Administrator Wheeler hosted San Diego Mayor Faulconer for a meet and greet and a ceremonial signing of a WIFIA loan.

LOOK-A-HEAD

Dec. 4 The House and Senate are in session.

Dec. 5 The House Energy and Commerce Environment subcommittee will hold a legislative hearing on Reps. John Shimkus and Bill Flores's discussion draft of the 21st Century Fuels Act. More info [HERE](#).

Dec. 4-12 The House and Senate Agriculture committees are pushing to finalize a Farm Bill prior to the end of the 115th Congress.

STORIES OF INTEREST

CONGRESS:

- Senate EPW Committee Holds Hearing on Nomination of Alexandra Dunn to Lead OCSPP [Link](#)
- Democrats Actually Like Trump Pick for EPA Office Ahead of Senate Hearing [Link](#)
- EPA to Keep Exempting Refineries From Biofuel Quotas, Sources Say [Link](#)

INTERGOV:

- New Oklahoma governor taps EPA official for environmental post [Link](#)
- Editorial: PA's PFAS Action Team generates hope, skepticism [Link](#)
- Bill could jeopardize Michigan authority to regulate wetlands [Link](#)

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